

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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CEREMONY"

One of the concluding points in his last statement on the needless war by Mr. Bryan touches frankly on the points of disagreement between the president and himself, which resulted in his resignation. No one wants or desires peace more profoundly than does the president, and he is more eager than Mr. Bryan to set as mediator and peacemaker, and once having made an earnest tender of his services in that direction he has felt it wise to withhold further proffers until such time as indications should justify that results would follow. Bryan, on the other hand, wanted the offer renewed "again and again until our offer or some other offer is accepted." In his last statement Bryan says:

"The duty of offering mediation may seem to rest primarily upon the United States, the largest of the neutral nations and the one most intimately bound by ties of blood to all the belligerents. The United States did make an offer immediately after the war began, but, who not again and again until our offer or some other offer is accepted?" But one action of failure to act need not deter any other neutral nation from acting. This is not a time to stand on ceremony. If any other country for any reason, no matter what the reason may be, is in a better position than we to tender its good offices, it should not delay a moment.

This is more directly critical of the president's foreign policy than any comment Mr. Bryan has yet offered. "Why not again and again?" Our action of failure is set. This is not a time to stand on ceremony—which latter sounds rather sarcastically nervous—in these phrases Mr. Bryan distinctly implies that the president has failed by overmuch use of "ceremony" to measure up to his duties in this world crisis.

That Mr. Bryan fully believes that his own method—that of repeating every morning a message to the belligerents summoning them to accept our services as mediator—would to effectualists we have not the slightest question. But we are persuaded he will have difficulty in inducing most intelligent Americans to agree with him. There will be a disposition to think that had Mr. Bryan's plan been followed, the United States would have succeeded only in making itself distasteful to all the belligerents and a bit ridiculous in the eyes of the world. And in doing so the chances are it would have lost entirely the dearly desired opportunity of acting at the opportune time as the friendly agent of peace in behalf of all the belligerents.

It is an open secret that President Wilson has been incessantly engaged in looking for an opening as a peace maker. Indeed, in the very note which Mr. Bryan refused to sign, his proffer of his services to help bring the many and Great Britain into agreement as to methods of naval warfare, many observers believe he has blazed the one hopeful path to peace that is now in sight. It is known that his confidential agents have been busy to European capitals sounding out public and governmental opinion and report regularly to the president, all with a view to seizing the first opening to promote peace that might present itself. It is no unworthy "standing on ceremony" while the world is bleeding to death that has kept the president from repeating "again and again" after his proffer had been ignored. The tender of his services, it has been rather the knowledge that by making himself odious and obnoxious he would be destroying his capacity for usefulness when finally the propitious moment should present itself.

It is safe to conclude, too, that Mr. Bryan's resignation and subsequent criticisms will make Woodrow Wilson all the more anxious not only for a peaceful settlement of the differences between this country and Germany, but for the role of peacemaker as well. The successful working out of his policy would be the best answer to the attacks that have been made upon other hand—such as might require the calling of congress together, for example—would give Mr. Bryan abundant opportunity to double and redouble the lustiness of his blows. It is within his power President Wilson will spare himself and the country that added embarrassment.

THE NAPOLEON WATERLOO—AND NOW

One hundred years ago last Friday morning the fate of Europe hung in the balance. One hundred years

later the fate again hangs in the balance.

One hundred years ago Friday night they say that two soldiers sought and held a haggard man who sought on foot to lead his horse once more upon the blasted field of Waterloo. As he struggled with them, we read, he cried aloud to his soldiers, as he was wont, "To me, my chivalry!" but in vain. On either side they passed him in their mad rout from the field where Blucher and Wellington had triumphed. His faithful friends caught and held him, while above them the blazing star of empire waned and vanished. After that came exile and a lonely death for one of earth's greatest warriors.

One hundred years and over more the world beholds the spectacle of the death grapple in Europe. It is not for us to judge who is right and who is wrong in the struggle that has placed brother against brother and friend against friend across the seas. We may not presume to say that the cause of this or that nation is just or unjust. What we do note is that each believes intensely that it is fighting for self-preservation.

But every day there is taking place in the lands of some of our foes' a battle beside which that of Waterloo pales into insignificance. And we know that if the struggle goes on to the bitter end, that end will be another Waterloo for all of the nations engaged—a greater Waterloo, in which victor and vanquished will be "in one red burial bier." We are bound to them all by ties of blood and friendship. We do not wish to see such a Waterloo.

In the spirit of desperation or of reprobate the nations now at war have, the one as well as the other, intruded upon the rights of our own people. Yet we abhor the idea of ourselves taking a part in the ghastly melee no matter how great the provocation. Rather would we bring our brothers across the ocean to a realization of the utter uselessness of this wanton sacrifice of the flower of their manhood. We call their attention earnestly and firmly but with peaceful wish and intent to the lengths to which their madness is leading them, and show them plainly where their trespass. Then we would help them to an understanding and a peaceful adjustment of their differences. That such a Waterloo as the world had never dreamed of may not come to the whole of Europe.

REPUBLICAN TRICKERY IS KICKING BACK

One of the worst and most wicked gerrymanders ever worked out and put through is that performed by the Republican legislature of Ohio. The winter just passed and its disease still smells and smells so loudly that it is kicking backward and the gamesters who engineered it are much in the worry stage just now.

These buckeye Republicans, statesmen, figured out a plan based upon the last vote for congressional, that would give the Republicans sixteen congressmen and the Democrats six. It was worked much on the plan that the Republicans of this state tried to adopt when they were controlled by Hadley, the Kansas successor of Morgan, but lacked the nerve to try.

The Democrats of Ohio now are musing that they will ask for a referendum and let the people decide whether they will let the Republican bosses make congressional districts of every shape and form and twisted into shapes that run around to every direction, so as to throw enormous majorities into Democratic districts and thus give the Republicans a chance to win in others.

Fortunately for the country it was not deemed necessary for him to return. President Wilson is steering nicely between the two extremes that this attack on popular government that they are likely not only to defeat the new districting, but to defeat also several Republican candidates in districts where they considered themselves safe, for when the referendum succeeds, the districts will remain as they now are. It is even charged that the Democrats in the legislature made only a pro forma opposition to the passage of the act, intending to bring out the "club behind the door" as President Wilson called it and smash things generally. Gerrymandering has always been denounced by honest men as indefensible, and as the Republicans in Ohio went to the extreme in their work, they are very likely to get hard hit when the people go to the polls.

THE FELLOWS WHO PROMOTE WAR

One of the propositions made by the peace advocates is that all nations shall make their own munitions and implements of war, and that no contracts shall be made for guns, armament, ships, ammunition or anything else of like nature. There is no doubt but that if the government should take over these manufactures, one of the greatest promoters of war would disappear—the occupation of the peace manufacturers who promote war in order to sell the stuff. To illustrate, read what the New York Times says:

"Parsons should be as real a thorn in times of peace as in times of war. He is within his power President Wilson will spare himself and the country that added embarrassment."

armor to Russia for \$24² a ton, and at the same time charged the United States \$416 a ton. In 1912 the war department purchased shrapnel from the ammunition ring at \$25 each, while the government in its own arsenal was manufacturing the same article for \$15. The ring charged \$7 for 31-second combination fuses which can be manufactured in the government arsenal for \$2. Here is where a large part of the \$25,000,000 appropriated annually by congress for war and navy purposes goes.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that men making such profits as those would use their influence for the creation of large armies and navies and for war. If war taxes were collected from incomes, inheritances and land values in such a manner that they could not be shifted to the necessities of the poor, there would be little enthusiasm for war except for defense when attacked. These two proposals are the ones mainly relied upon as preventives of war by the peace societies and it cannot be denied that there is force in them.

KANSAS JUST CAN'T HELP IT

Kansas has so many imported harvest hands that it is literally overrun and don't know what to do with them. The press dispatches tell of the thousands of men now stranded there who had gone expectantly to find work. The Henry County Democrat of Clinton "talks out in meetin'" when it says:

"For weeks, following her annual program, Kansas has been frantically clamoring for the world to rush in and help her harvest her big wheat crop. Those who know Kansas methods understand thoroughly the advertising game that is back of it, but all over the Middle West unemployed men look it seriously and hit the brake rods to the Sunflower State. There was little attempt at judicious distribution, and none at all to advise these laborers when their services would be required, and as a result, Kansas has another problem to wrestle with—a lot of superfluous and penniless laborers who have reached the harvest fields and finding them yet almost green, have to sublet on charity.

What Kansas should do is to—use to beat the bass drum on every pretext. Her frantic calls for assistance have made the tramp problem acute in many rural communities, her exaggerated claims of the size of crop results in materially depressing the price. And yet she is not satisfied in going alone like Oklahoma, Missouri and Dakota, but must perforce do the same old Kansas stunt every harvest.

As one prominent real estate man said in discussing it, "Kansas is just Kansas and can't help it."

But it is a horn blower of horn blowers, and it toots, toots, toots—and then more toots.

TEDDY SAYS HE'S READY

The truth is Teddy has decided for the time being to forego his contract to "tear Wilson to pieces," and has in place hastened to endorse the attitude of the president as against that of Mr. Bryan.

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But if it be true, as shown by testimony in the Barnes-Rosenthal fracas for all that the noisy one has the disposition and capacity to tear Mr. Wilson to pieces, it can be taken also for granted that he would much prefer to take a bill out of Bryan. It was characteristic of the noisy one in his spread-eagle endorsement of President Wilson's attitude, "Has not broken out?" he asked, probably sarcastically. "Had I better return immediately?"

No comedian has anything on Roosevelt when he is led to talk of war.

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THE CRUELTIES OF RANDALL ISLAND

Those "saints" philanthropists of New York and other cities who have contributed some millions for the starving people in Europe and made so much ado about it, should read this, taken from the sworn testimony printed in the New York Times relative to the Randall Island investigation. Take this mother's testimony, who went to find her little daughter, for instance:

"I finally discovered her, tied in a chair. Her hair had been cut off and she had been crying until she couldn't cry any more. She seemed to have a high fever. I took off her clothes and discovered that her body was covered with black and blue spots, and was so dirty that she actually smelled. I also found a cut on her head. She had changed so much since I last saw her that I hardly recognized her."

There are many affidavits from nurses and charity workers, all of the same nature. It is stated that women patients who could not sleep were tied to their beds while the attendants, stupefied with liquor, slept through the night. That is the way women and children were treated on Randall's Island, while all fashionable New York and a Rockefeller foundation were wild over the cruelty and suffering in Belgium. If there is no excuse to be made for the cruelties in the war zones, what must be said of the cruelty on Randall's Island?

When the St. Joseph Shriners and

Rudolph Baer's carnival reach Seattle, that town will get a bump on itself. The St. Joseph justices of the peace are raising money to fight. It is generally supposed that the justices are to punish fighting.

There was "music in the air" this week. The twentieth annual convention of the Missouri Music Teachers' Association was held here.

Really, there is no sympathy to be wasted over the death of Lieut. A. J. Warneford, who was killed last week while aviating in Europe. There are twenty-eight German mothers whose sons he killed and for whose deaths his own life could not repay. He deserved what he got.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that men making such profits as those would use their influence for the creation of large armies and navies and for war. If war taxes were collected from incomes, inheritances and land values in such a manner that they could not be shifted to the necessities of the poor, there would be little enthusiasm for war except for defense when attacked. These two proposals are the ones mainly relied upon as preventives of war by the peace societies and it cannot be denied that there is force in them.

But few Americans will endorse the verdict of the British court martial which sentenced Gen. Christian De wet to six years imprisonment. De wet would not have been sentenced if he had not come so near to whipping the British when they stole his country several years ago.

The selection by President Wilson of Robert Lansing as the successor of Bryan will be heralded as another of those wise moves that the president has made. There is no more level-headed American than Mr. Lansing and he will help President Wilson through the troubled waters.

When some of those frenzied ones who think of nothing except to create trouble for other, discover that they cannot hurt County Clerk Joe Hunt with their unseemly fabrications, there will be more decency in this community.

The police authorities are to be commended for their stand relative to the careless automobile. Life is not yet cheap enough in St. Joseph for careless chauffeurs to stuff it out at their pleasure.

The fact that a pool of American newspapers disclosed that 98.1 per cent stood for President Wilson and only 1.6 per cent for Bryan, voices the sentiment of the American people in no uncertain terms.

A dispatch says that the Kansas farmers "welcome beer kegs to use as rollers for their harvesting machines." Yes, and they also welcome the contents before they use the kegs for "rollers."

The Commercial Club of Portland, Ore., makes a standing offer of \$10 to anyone who can find a hole in any pavement in the city as big as a man's hat.

Can you duplicate this, Mayor Marshall?

The ends of justice are just as well subserved with Leo Frank's sentence committed to life imprisonment. Nothing has ever been gained by hanging a man where there was a doubt.

Of course it is proper for you to starve if you have small pox because the welfare board, which handles the city's charity, will not give you something to eat.

It may be all right for Richard L. Metcalf of Omaha to rap Bryan, but it is the height of ingratitude. If it had not been for Bryan, Metcalf would never have been known.

Every Missourian, irrespective of party, deplores the untimely death of Hon. William S. Cowherd. He was a great and loyal son of this prosperous state.

When Arch Woodson and Judge Jim Johnson lock horns for the supreme dictatorship in 1917, St. Joseph will have two favorite sons in the running.

Harry Thaw expects to be adjudged sane and says he will go to the Panama-Pacific exposition. But lots of people are crazy to go to the exposition.

Russia is complaining that she is bearing the brunt of the war, while England, as usual, sits back and has the other fellow do the fighting—and grab all the finish.

Delegates to the advertising men's convention occupied Fifty Chicago palls Sunday and, of course, the congregations heard nothing but truth.

It is now certain that the income tax returns will exceed \$81,000,000. Thus another Republican "deficiency" gun spiked.

When all of this yellow newspaper "good talk" is over it will be found that Missouri will still raise the greatest crop in its history.

When people can be killed and their remains burned on the inside of a penitentiary, it begins to look as though there were no "safe places."

The St. Joseph trade boosters who made that Nebraska and Kansas trip last week now tell none but prosperity stories. Great is the West.

When the St. Joseph Shriners and

Rudolph Baer's carnival reach Seattle, that town will get a bump on itself.

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Why cannot St. Joseph's welfare board take care of people quarantined for small pox or other contagious diseases?

Speaker Clark will not have any trouble in counting a quorum at his daughter's wedding.

The season must have run out its entire stock of tornadoes in Kansas and Missouri.

There seems to be another stir-up in Indiana. That state is getting as notoriously rotten as Kansas.

Jerry Grider may as well take to the tall uncult. The Haven girl is at large.

After a while the big war loans may perhaps be properly classified as frenzied finance.

Somehow or other, those Germans seem to have no fear of the Russian bear—nor of Losberg either.

There will be no extra session of congress. The country does not need it.

The letting of those school contracts will help St. Joseph.

Another Morgan is gone, and the country is still safe.

Bryan has now ousted Taft and Teddy. Go ahead, Bill!

Sayings of Missouri Editors

The Dagoes Simply Lied

The Italians put the lie in the Triple Alliance.—Boonville Advertiser

Let Them Beware

Once more we are about to wage peace on the Mexicans.—Hampton's Mercury.

And So Do We

We earnestly hope that the time will not come for the appearance of a red, white and blue hook.—St. Louis Republic.

Hope It Will Be Effective

According to the new law, if you see an advertisement in a Missouri paper now it must be so.—Kansas City Post.

The Fellow St. Joseph Needs